



APSINTHION

PROTOCOL



WRITTEN BY DR. FAUSTUS
ILLUSTRATED BY EROSARTS

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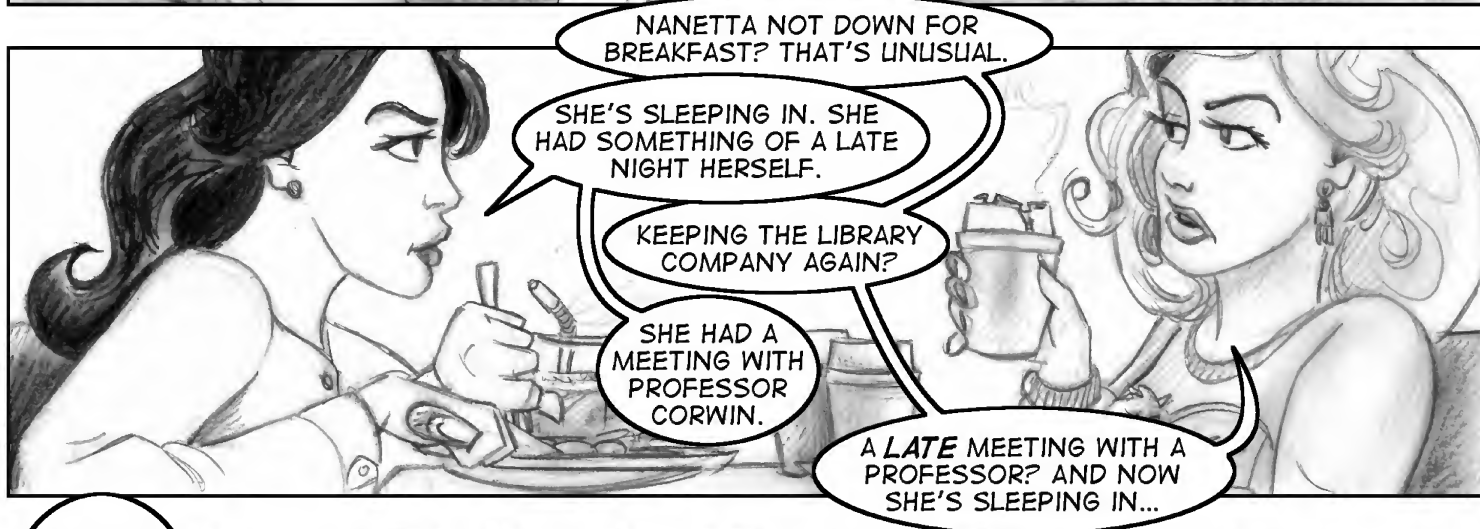


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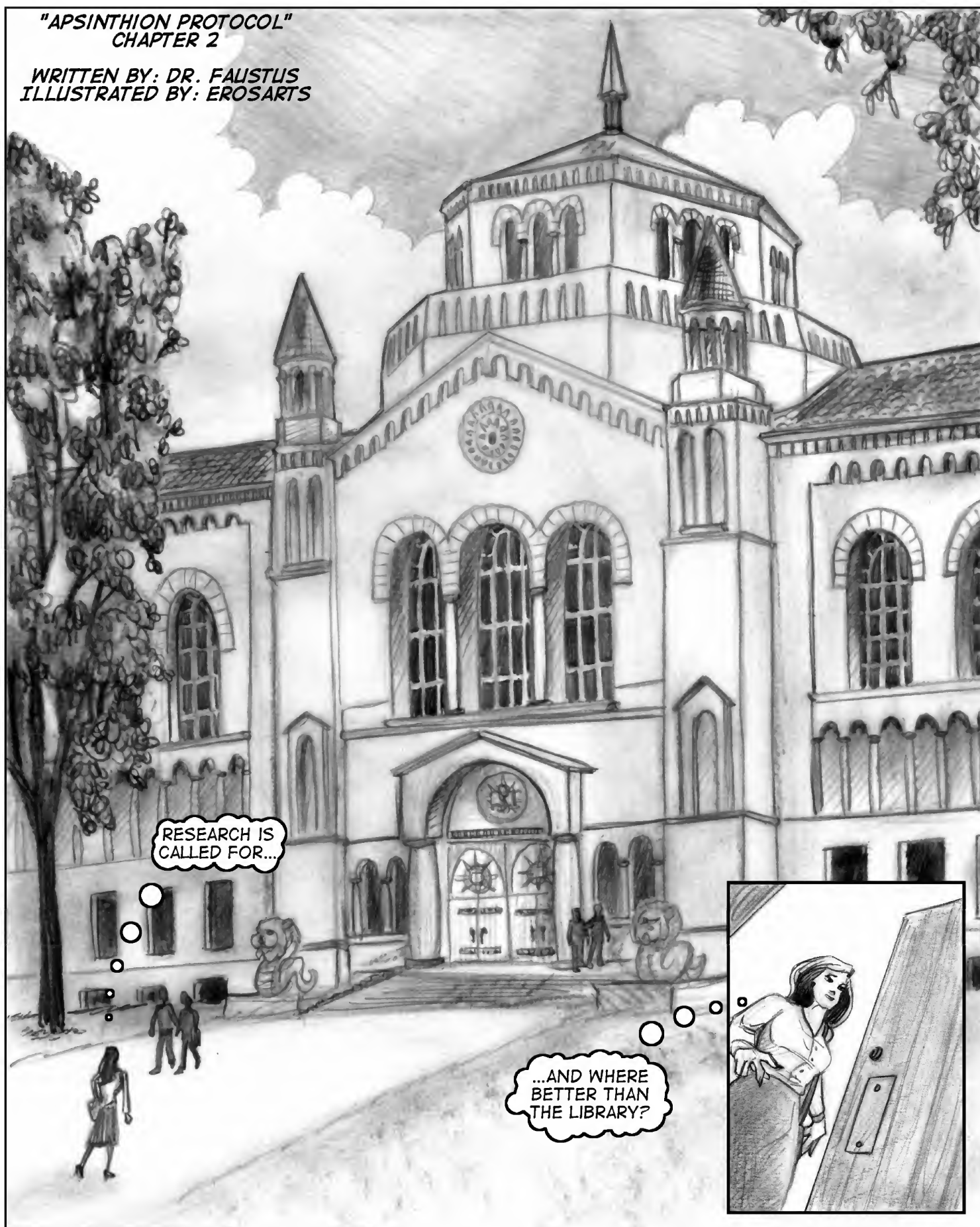
Thank you, and enjoy.

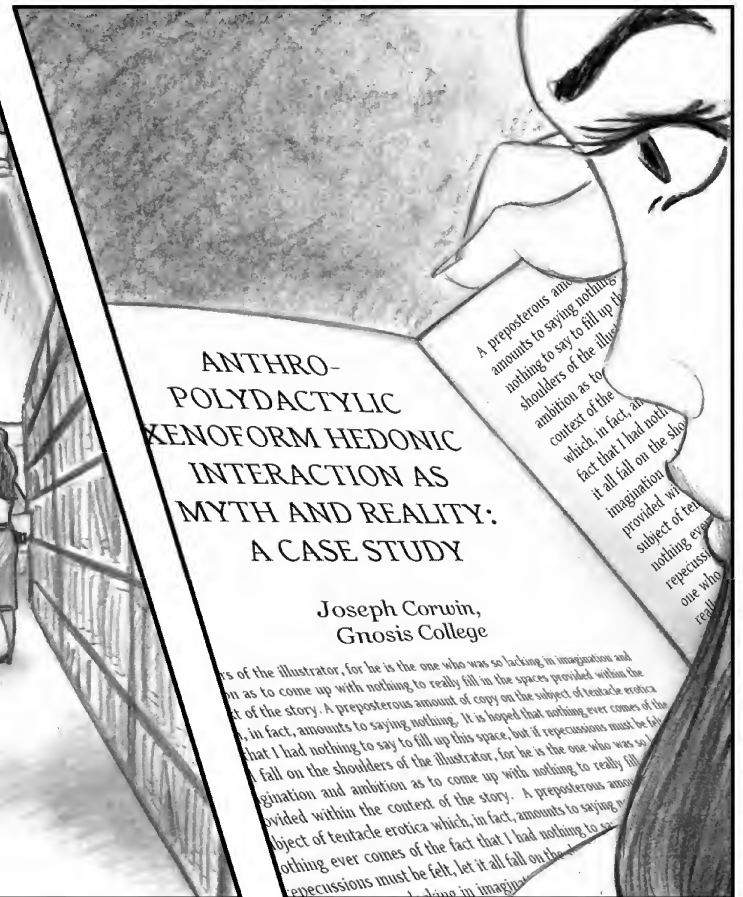
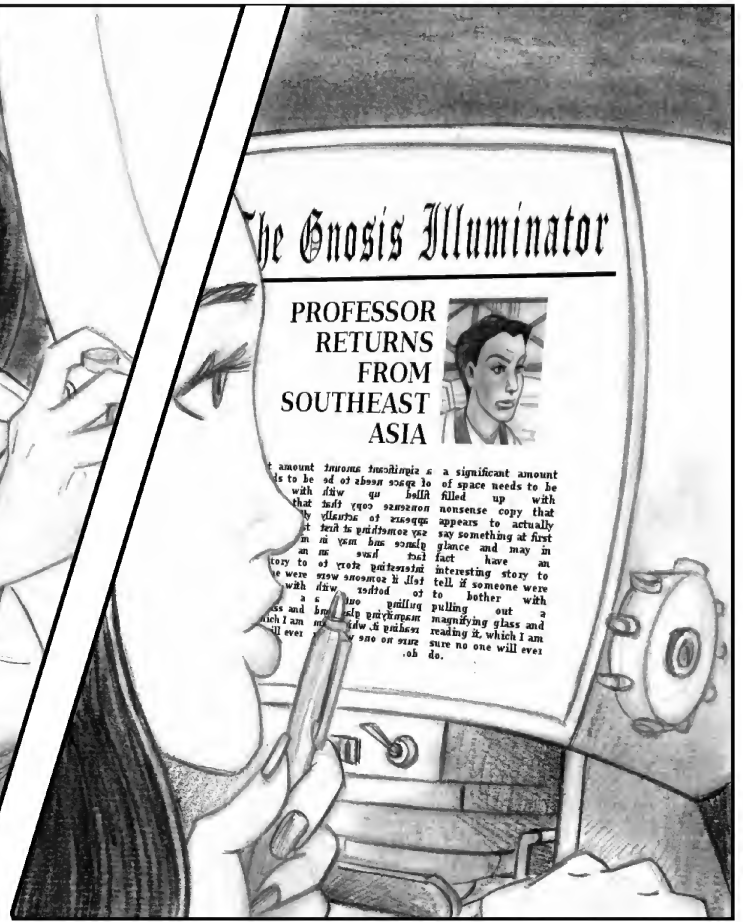
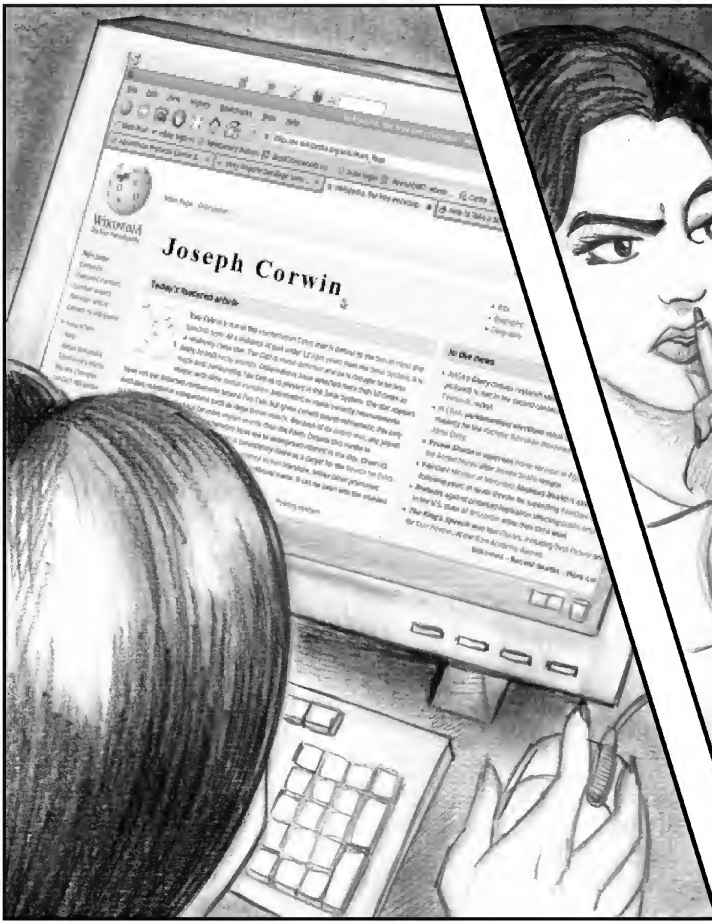
THE GNOSIS COLLEGE
DINING HALL...

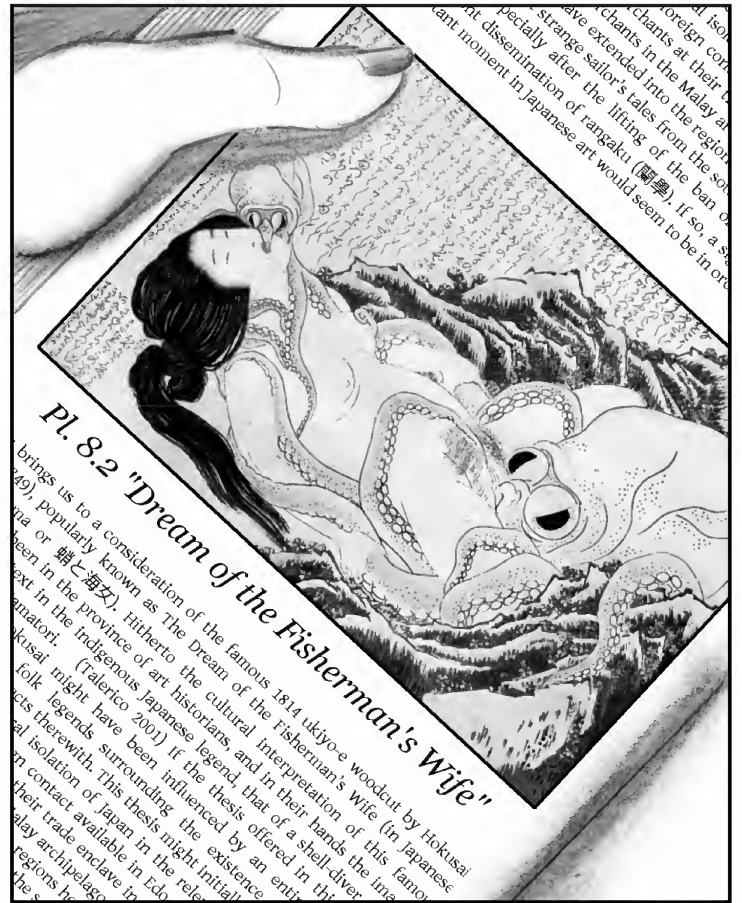


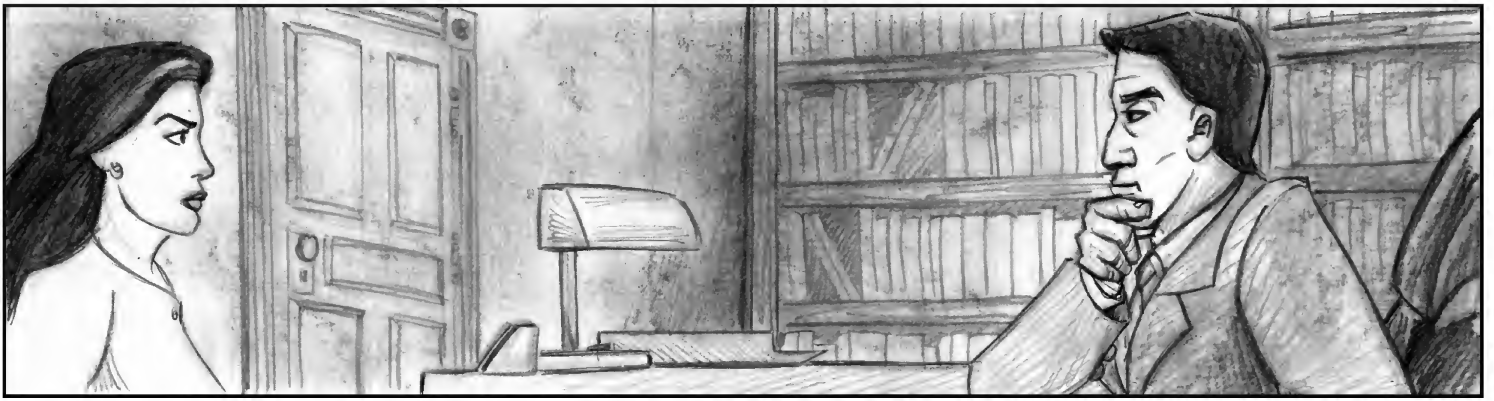
"APSINTHION PROTOCOL"
CHAPTER 2

WRITTEN BY: DR. FAUSTUS
ILLUSTRATED BY: EROSARTS









TO PUT IT BLUNTLY, I
PUT IN A LITTLE LIBRARY
WORK ON YOU,
PROFESSOR CORWIN.

OH? AND WHY?

BECAUSE I SUSPECTED SOMETHING
IMPROPER WAS GOING ON BETWEEN YOU
AND MY FRIEND NANETTA.

SHALL I BE
ALARMED?

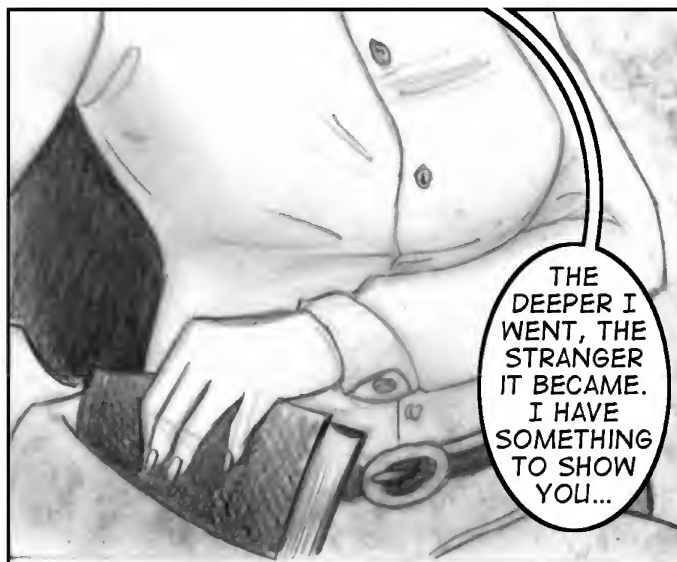
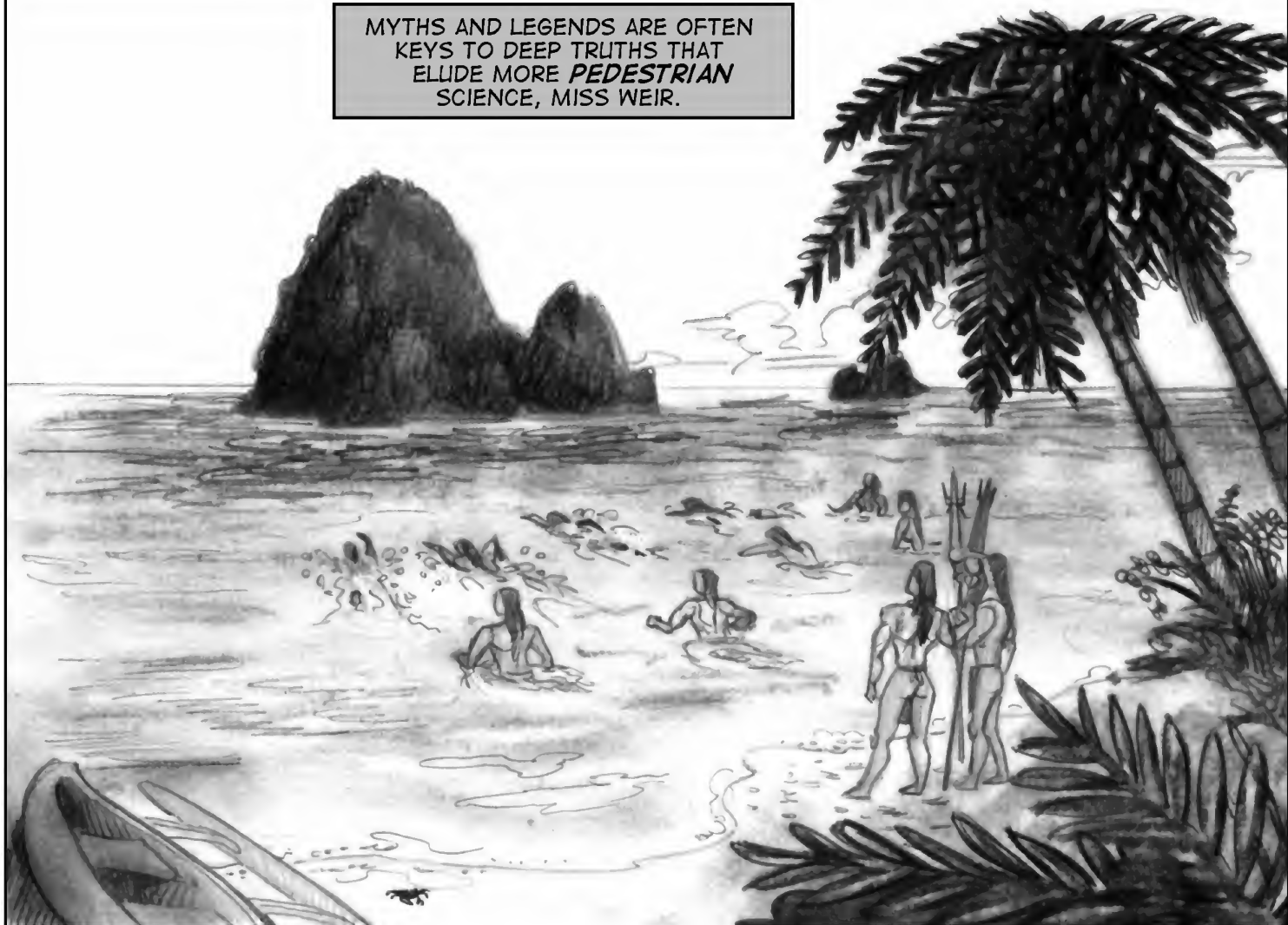
YOU MAY BE RELIEVED THAT I DON'T THINK —
NOW — THAT IT WAS *THAT* KIND OF IMPROPER.
INSTEAD, THINGS GOT A LITTLE STRANGE.

IS IT REALLY USUAL FOR A
PSYCHOLOGIST TO TAKE A RESEARCH
SABBATICAL IN *NORTH BORNEO*,
PROFESSOR CORWIN?

THE UNIVERSITY OF KENIKMATAN
HAS AN EXCELLENT PROGRAM IN
MY FIELD, MISS WEIR.

UH HUH. FOR A MODERN ACADEMIC YOU SEEM TO TAKE VERY SERIOUSLY OLD STORIES ABOUT MALAY PEOPLE GOING OUT AND...I DON'T KNOW HOW TO PUT IT...CAVORTING? WITH STRANGE SEA CREATURES.

MYTHS AND LEGENDS ARE OFTEN KEYS TO DEEP TRUTHS THAT ELUDE MORE **PEDESTRIAN** SCIENCE, MISS WEIR.




THE DEEPER I WENT, THE STRANGER IT BECAME. I HAVE SOMETHING TO SHOW YOU...



AN ANCESTOR OF YOURS?

THIS WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE BEEN KEPT IN LOCKED STACKS.




SMILE SWEETLY AT
THE RIGHT PEOPLE AND
LOCKS WILL OPEN.


SEVERAL PAGES HAVE BEEN EXCISED
FROM THIS COPY. WHAT ARE YOU DRIVING
AT HERE, MISS WEIR?




PROFESSOR CORWIN,
THIS STARTED AS
CONCERN FOR
NANETTA, WHO
REALLY DID SEEM SO...
CHANGED AFTER SHE
MET WITH YOU. I'VE
KNOWN HER SINCE WE
WERE **FRESHMEN**,
AND TO ME SHE'S
LIKE THE **SISTER**
I NEVER HAD. OF
COURSE I WAS
CONCERNED.



BUT AFTER
READING...
CAPTAIN
CORWIN'S
ACCOUNT...EVEN
THOUGH IT SEEMS
THE BEST PARTS
ARE **MISSING**
AND SEEING HOW
IT SEEMS TO
TURN UP IN YOUR
OWN WORK, MY
CURIOSITY HAS
BEGUN BURNING
ME UP AND...
AND...



...IS THERE REALLY
SUCH A THING AS A
POLYDACTYLIC
XENOFORM?



I WOULD NOT
NORMALLY TELL YOU
WHAT I AM ABOUT TO,
BUT I CANNOT FAIL TO
REWARD PERSISTENCE
IN RESEARCH.

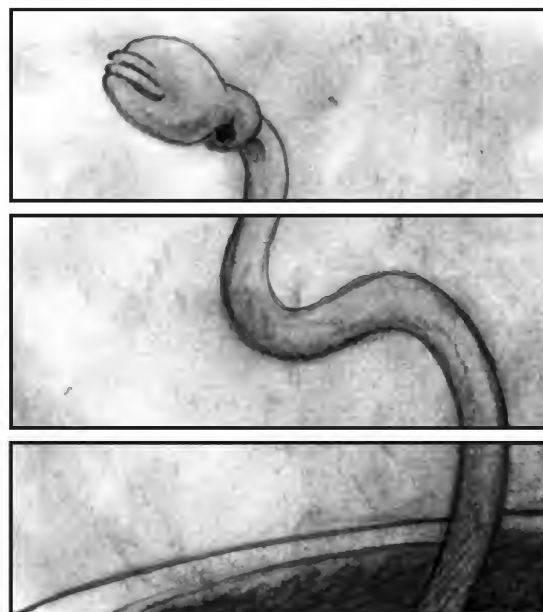
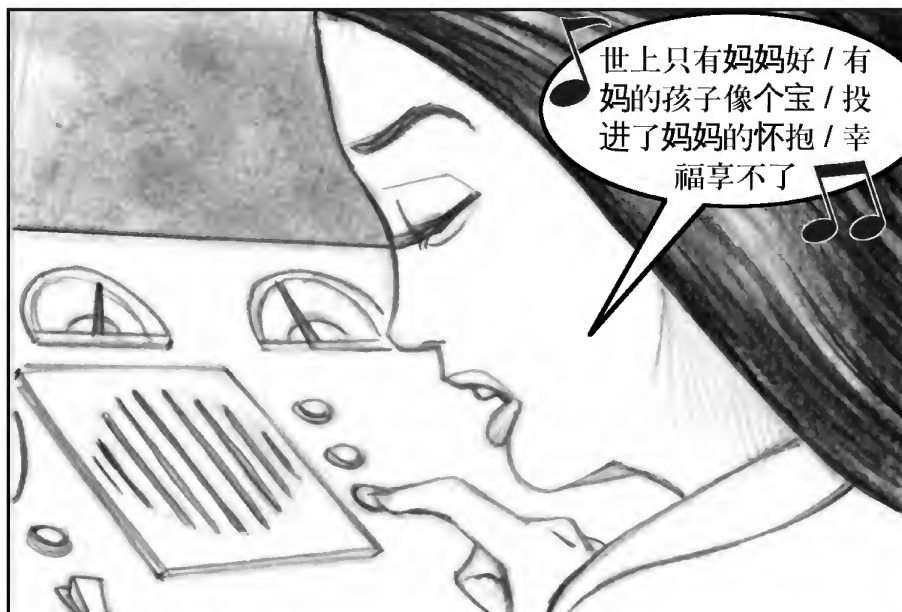
AS IT HAPPENS, I HAVE
THIS LABORATORY...

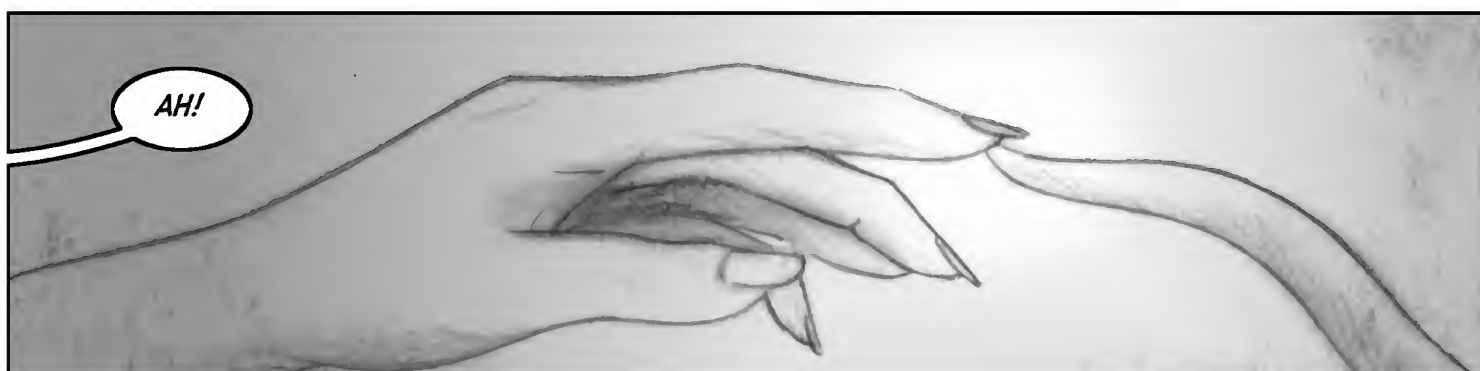
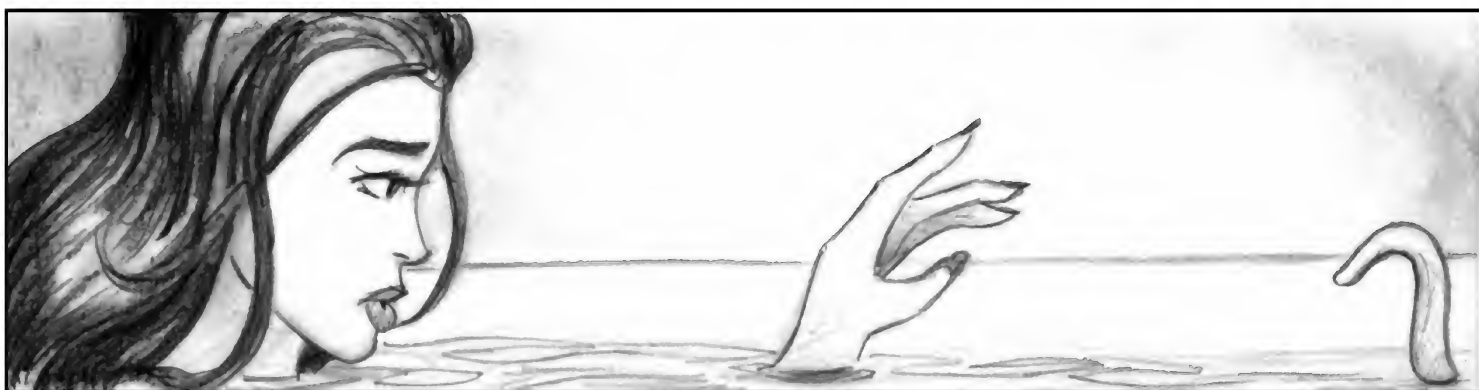


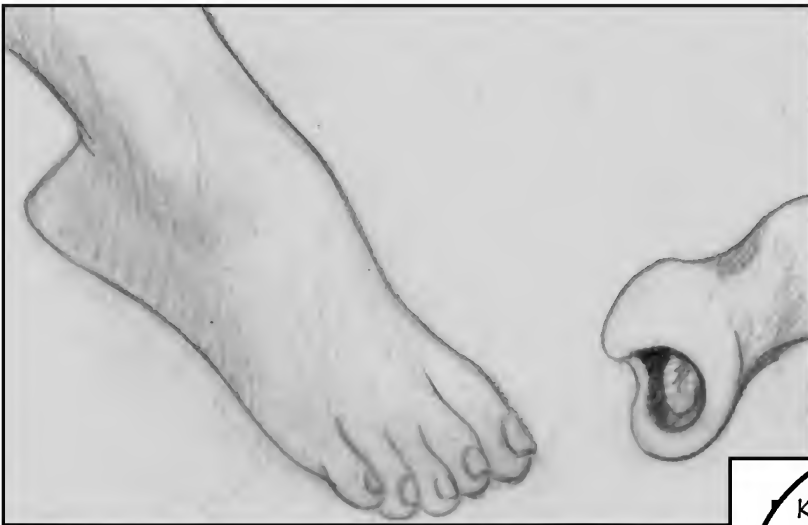
GOOD EVENING, MISS WEIR. I
TAKE IT ANWEI HAS BRIEFED YOU
ON OUR PROCEDURES HERE?



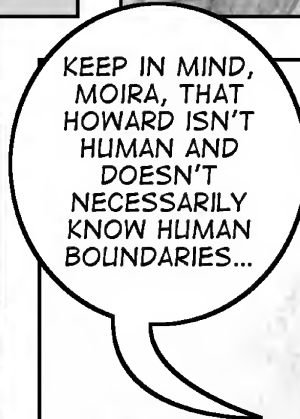








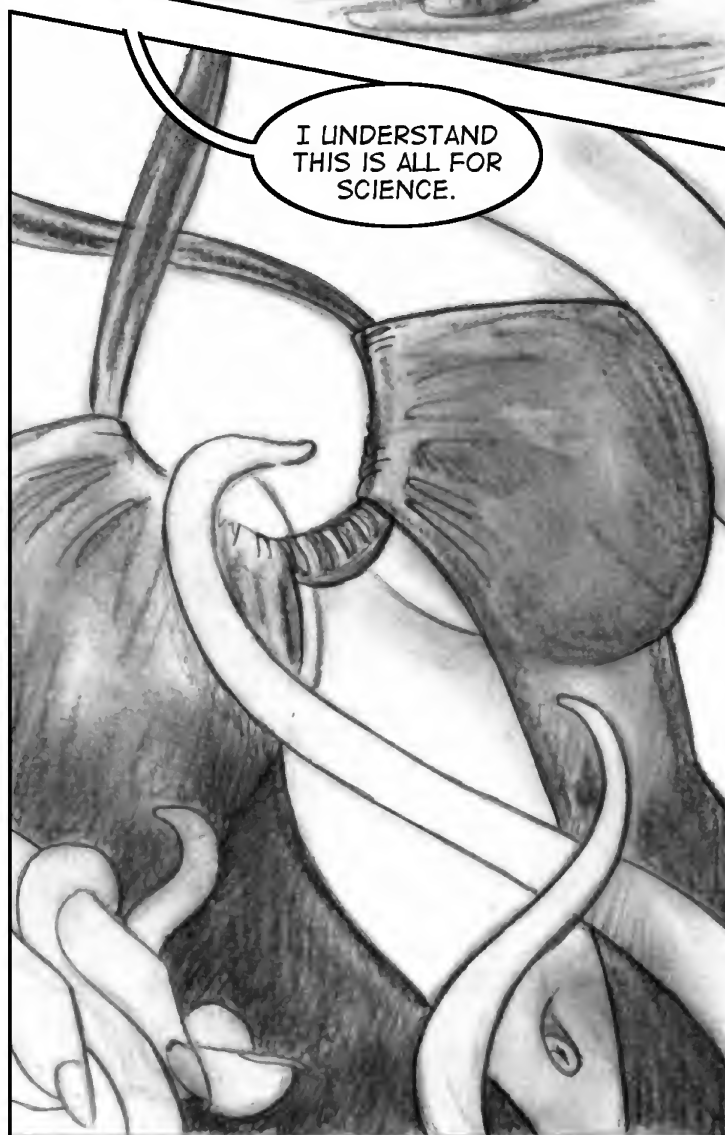
OH! I COULD
SWEAR THAT
SOMETHING
JUST...KISSED
MY TOE!

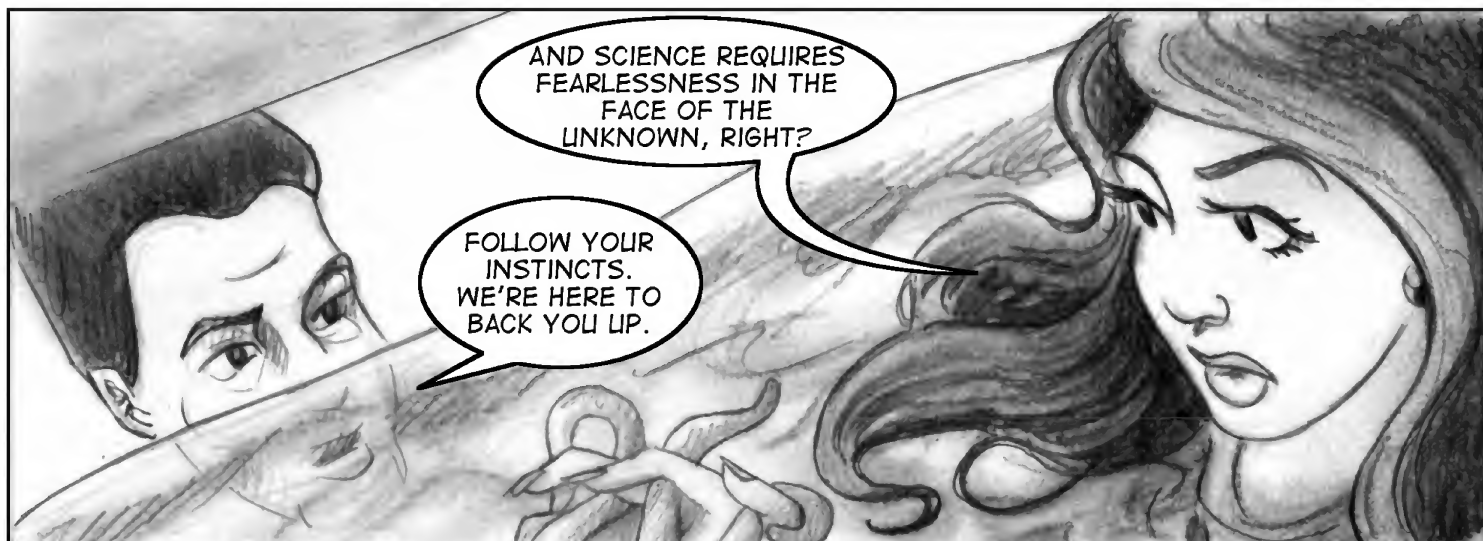


KEEP IN MIND,
MOIRA, THAT
HOWARD ISN'T
HUMAN AND
DOESN'T
NECESSARILY
KNOW HUMAN
BOUNDARIES...

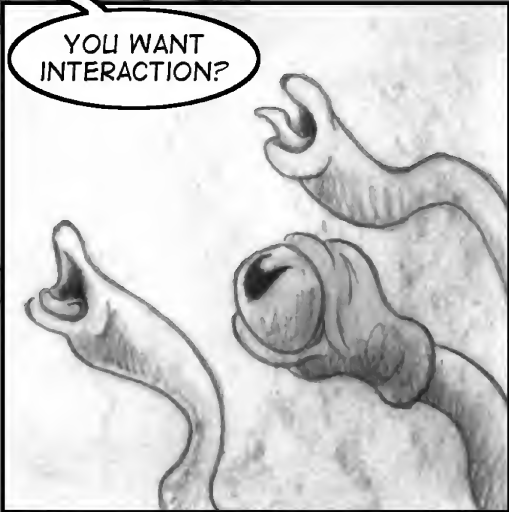


YOU HEARD THE
NICE PROFESSOR,
HOWARD.





YOU WANT
INTERACTION?



THEN YOU'LL
GET... **OH MY!**



MOIRA, IF YOU
NEED TO STOP...



I NEED TO
GO! ...



SCIENCE
REQUIRES
FOLLOWING THE
LOGIC OF THE
SITUATION...



...TO WHERE
IT LEADS.

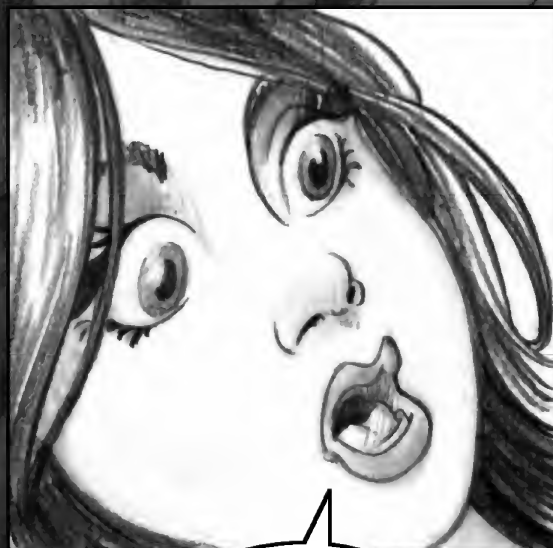


OH...AH...
THAT'S...

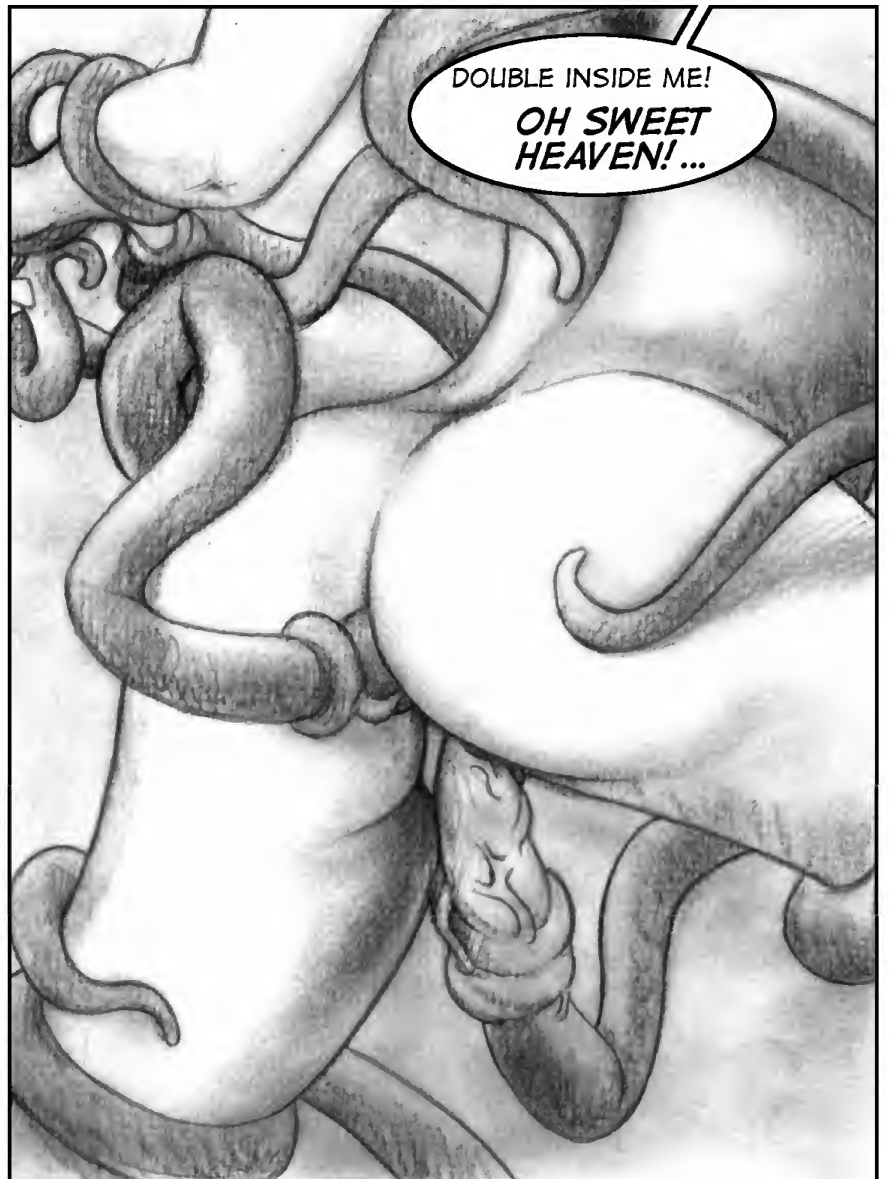
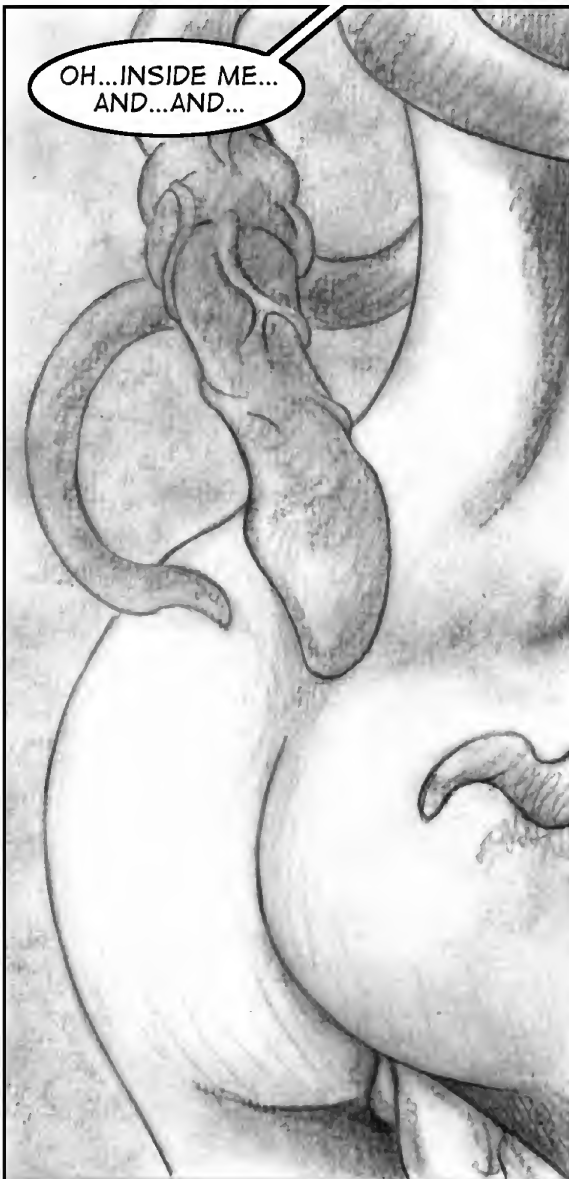
LICK!



OH NO...I MEAN...
SURELY I CAN'T...

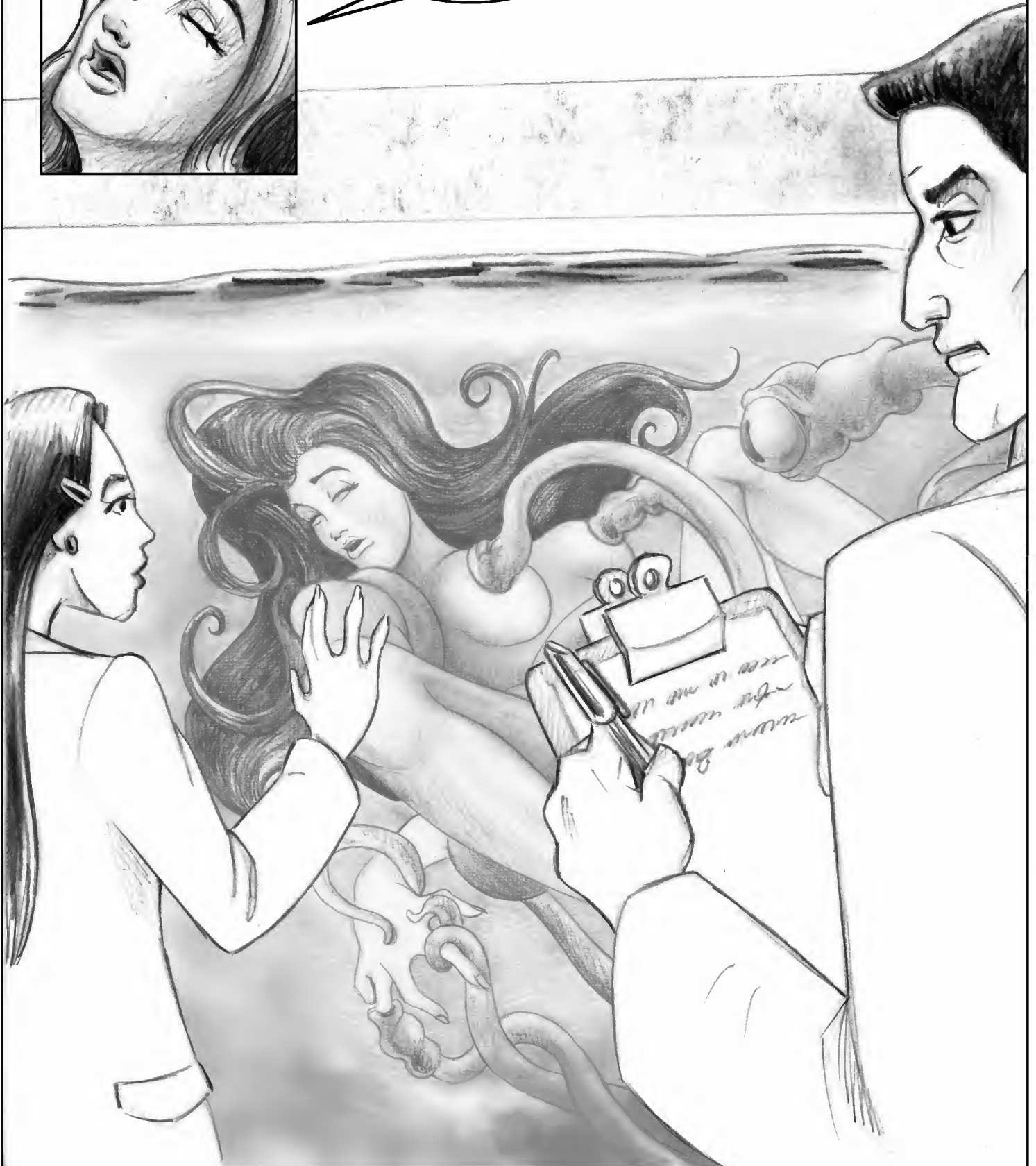



I MEAN...OH
YES...SURELY...
I...CAN...





I... ABANDON
MYSELF!





REMARKABLE! I'VE NEVER
SEEN SUCH BOLD INTERACTION
ON HOWARD'S PART, EVEN
WITH YOU, ANWEI.

SIGH. ALWAYS A
BRIDESMAID AND
NEVER A BRIDE.



OUT IN SPEC

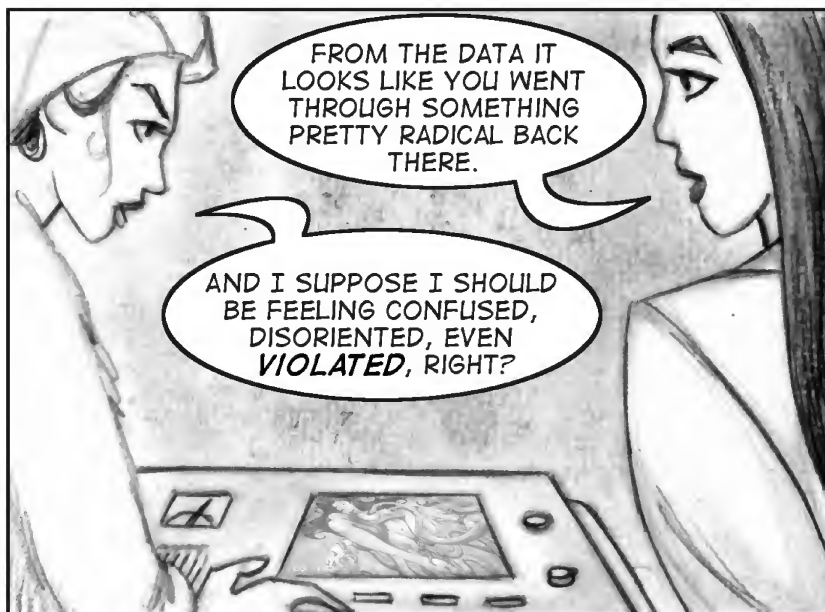
MOIRA SURE SEEMS TO
HAVE TAKEN TO
TRANSDERMAL RESPIRATION.



I WONDER HOW
LONG SHE INTENDS
TO STAY DOWN?



SO IT WASN'T
A DREAM.



FROM THE DATA IT
LOOKS LIKE YOU WENT
THROUGH SOMETHING
PRETTY RADICAL BACK
THERE.

AND I SUPPOSE I SHOULD
BE FEELING CONFUSED,
DISORIENTED, EVEN
VIOLATED, RIGHT?

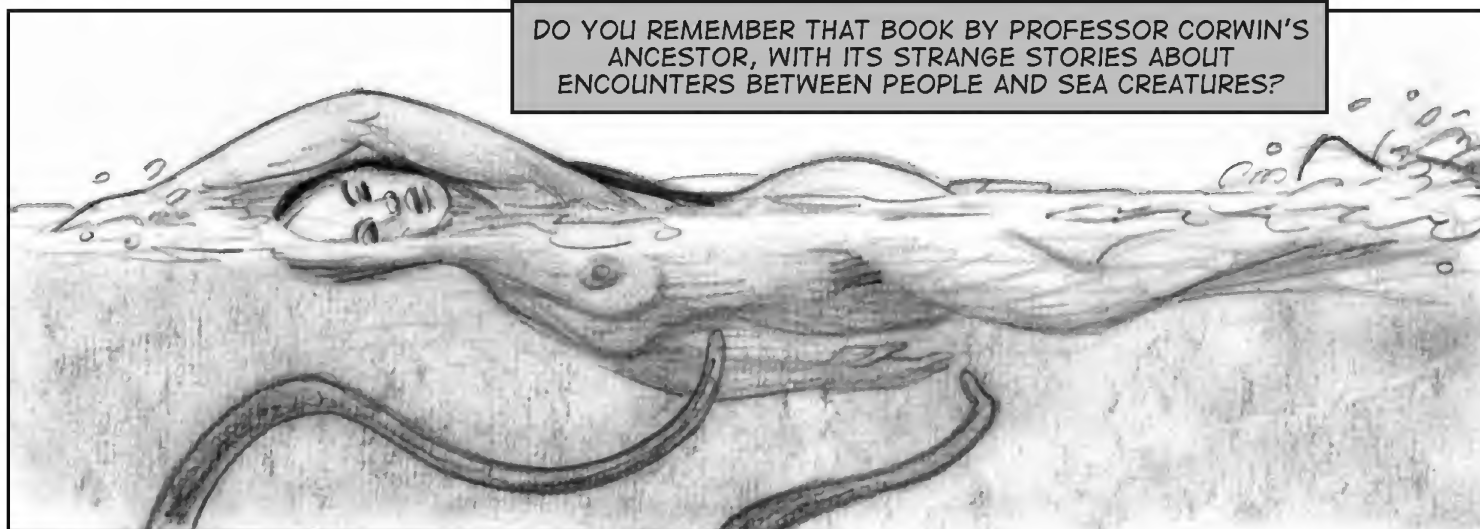


WELL?

THE FACT IS I FEEL
AN AMAZING SENSE
OF WELLNESS.

ARE YOU REALLY
THAT ADVENTUROUS?

I'LL TELL YOU SOMETHING
THAT MIGHT HELP EXPLAIN.



DO YOU REMEMBER THAT BOOK BY PROFESSOR CORWIN'S
ANCESTOR, WITH ITS STRANGE STORIES ABOUT
ENCOUNTERS BETWEEN PEOPLE AND SEA CREATURES?



PROFESSOR CORWIN
MENTIONED THAT THE
GNOSIS COLLEGE COPY OF
THE BOOK HAD ITS MOST
EXPLICIT PAGES REMOVED.

AND WHO DO YOU
THINK DID THAT?



SOME SCANDALIZED
VICTORIAN LIBRARIAN,
PERHAPS?

NO, ANWEI.
IT WAS ME.



I SEE...



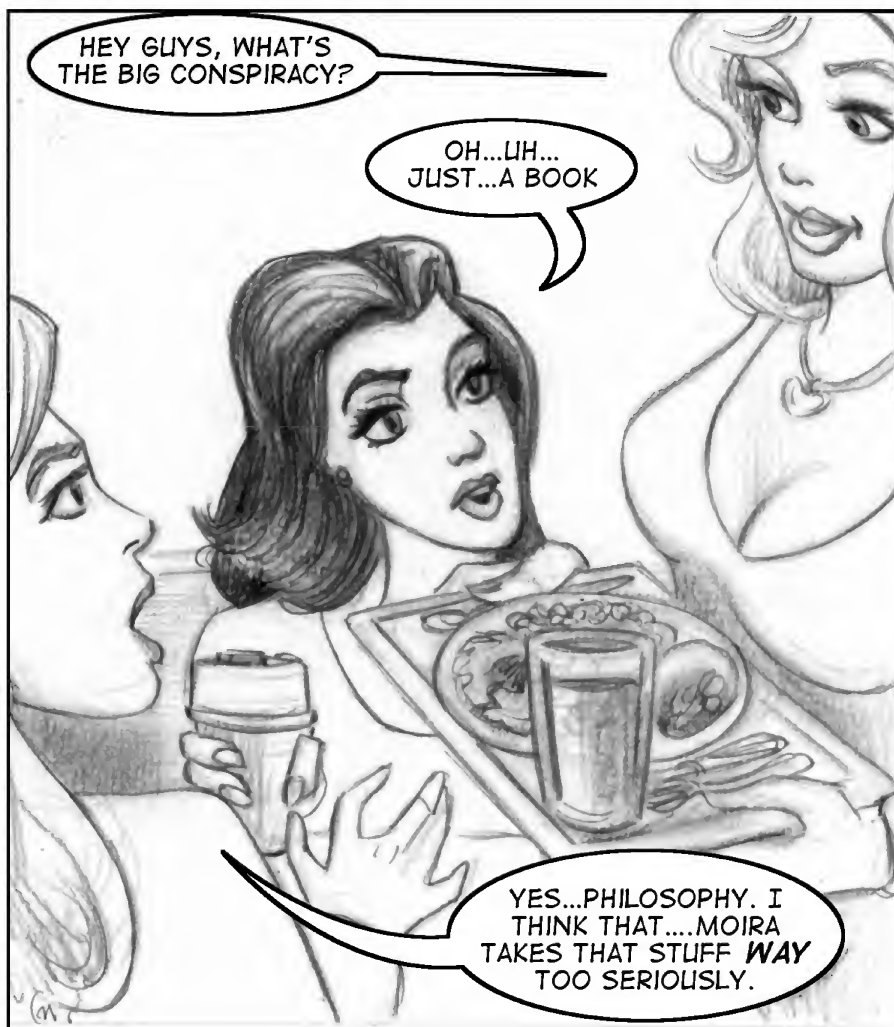


THE OLD WEIDEGOLD
BREWERY?

YES, THE BREWERY.

YOU'VE BEEN THERE
TOO? BUT WHAT....

WELL, IT WAS LIKE...



HEY GUYS, WHAT'S
THE BIG CONSPIRACY?

OH...UH...
JUST...A BOOK

YES...PHILOSOPHY. I
THINK THAT....MOIRA
TAKES THAT STUFF *WAY*
TOO SERIOUSLY.



OH. I
SEE.



MOIRA WEIR MAY LOOK VERY PRETTY IN THIS SWIMSUIT BUT SHE IS NOT WEARING IT FOR YOU, DEAR READER. RATHER, HER PATH TO POURING HERSELF INTO THIS SKIMPY COSTUME BEGAN WITH A BELIEF THAT IF SHE DELVED DEEPLY ENOUGH IN THE DARKEST CORNERS OF THE COLLEGE LIBRARY, SHE WOULD FIND IN SOME OBSCURE TOME THE ANSWER TO A YEARNING SHE HAD LONG HAD YET COULD NEITHER NAME NOR DESCRIBE. AND IN ONE SUCH TOME SHE DID INDEED FIND HINTS OF SOMETHING WONDROUS AND STRANGE...AND IT IS FOR THAT THING THAT SHE HAS DRESSED LIKE THIS.



Maira
Weir